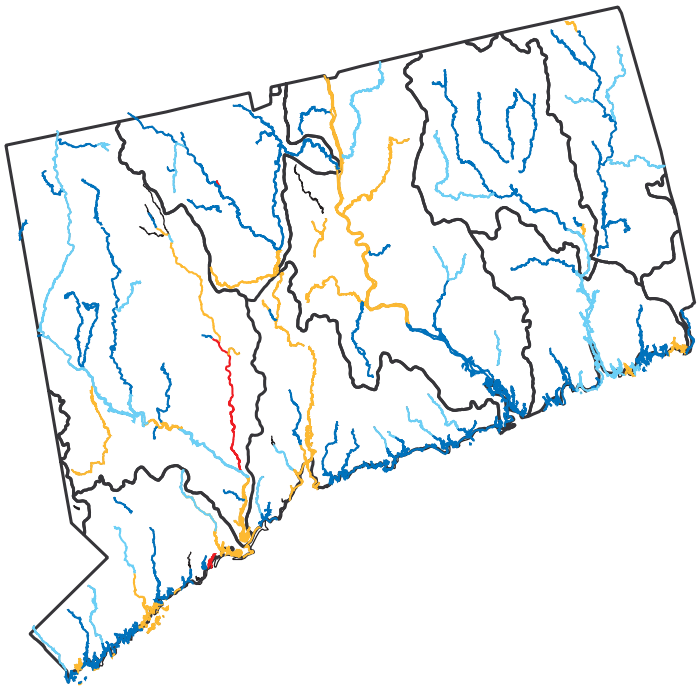
Connecticut



Fully Supporting
Threatened
Partially Supporting
Not Supporting
Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

*Discontinuous stream reaches may be due to lakes or impoundments that are not shown in this graphic.

For a copy of the Connecticut 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Connecticut has restored over 300 miles of large rivers since enactment of Connecticut's State Clean Water Act in 1967. Back in 1967, about 663 river miles (or 74% of the State's 893 miles of large rivers and streams) were unfit for fishing and swimming. In 1996, Connecticut reported that 165 river miles (18%) do not fully support aquatic life uses and 248 miles (28%) do not support swimming due to bacteria, PCBs, metals, oxygen-demanding wastes, ammonia, nutrients, and habitat alteration. Sources of these pollutants include urban runoff and storm sewers, industrial dischargers, municipal sewage treatment plants, and in-place contaminants. Threats to Connecticut's reservoir and lake quality include atmospheric deposition, upstream impoundments, and municipal sewage treatment plants.

Hypoxia (low dissolved oxygen) is a widespread problem in Connecticut's estuarine waters in Long Island Sound. Bacteria also prevent shellfish harvesting and an advisory restricts consumption of bluefish and striped bass contaminated with PCBs. Connecticut's estuarine waters are impacted by municipal sewage treatment plants, combined sewer overflows, industrial discharges and runoff, failing septic systems, urban runoff, recreational activities, and atmospheric deposition. Historic waste disposal practices also contaminated sediments in Connecticut's harbors and bays.

Ground Water Quality

The State and USGS have identified about 1,600 contaminated public and private wells since the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began keeping records in 1980. Connecticut's Wellhead Protection Program incorporates water supply planning, discharge permitting, water diversion, site remediation, prohibited activities, and numerous nonpoint source controls.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Ensuring that all citizens can share in the benefits of clean water will require continued permit enforcement, additional advanced wastewater treatment, combined sewer separation, continued aquatic toxicity control, and resolution of nonpoint source issues. To date, 14 sewage treatment facilities have installed advanced treatment to remove nutrients. Nonpoint source management includes education projects and a permitting program for land application of sewage, agricultural sources, and solid waste management facilities.

Wetlands are protected by the State's Clean Water Act and Standards of Water Quality. Each municipality has an Inland Wetlands Agency that regulates filling and establishes regulated buffer areas with DEP training and oversight. Connecticut's courts have strongly upheld enforcement of the wetlands acts and supported regulation of buffer areas to protect wetlands.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Connecticut samples physical and chemical parameters at 27 fixed stream sites and biological parameters at 47 stream sites. Other activities include intensive biological surveys, toxicity testing, and fish and shellfish tissue sampling for accumulation of toxic chemicals.

Individual Use Support in Connecticut

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles Surveyed	Percent Good (Fully Supporting)	Percent Good (Threatened)	Percent Fair (Partially Supporting)	Percent Poor (Not Supporting)	Percent Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 5,830)[b]						
	893	51	30	15	3	<1
	135	7	44	49	1	0
	893	64	8	20	7	<1
Lakes (Total Acres = 64,973)						
	27,108	95	1	4	0	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	27,158	64	35	1	0	0
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 612)						
	612	60	0	30	10	0
	612	100	0	<1	0	0
	612	47	0	0	53	0
	613	97	<1	1	2	0

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Connecticut's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.